CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 28 JULY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE DECISION OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO DECLARE A TWO-YEAR MORATORIUM ON THE EXPORT OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

I have the honour to send you herewith a note regarding the decision of the Israeli Government to declare a two-year moratorium on the export of anti-personnel mines, and to kindly ask you that this note be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Itzhak Lior
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Land mines planted during times of armed conflict, and left after the conflict is over, have caused many tragedies for a great number of civilians. The proliferation of land mines has had tragic consequences, and it is estimated that there are more than 85 million undeclared land mines scattered over 62 countries.

The need to mobilize the international community to address this issue is widely recognized. Last year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus, which Israel was a part of, the resolution on a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land mines.

Addressing the worldwide effort to reduce the damage caused by anti-personnel mines, the Israeli Government has, therefore, decided upon a moratorium of two years on the transfer of anti-personnel mines. During this period, Israel will be working with other interested parties to review the establishment of a permanent regime for banning the transfer of anti-personnel mines.

In addition to the two-year moratorium Israel offers its know-how, assistance and training in mine clearance.

The Government of Israel hopes that these steps, which are humanitarian in nature, will encourage other countries to follow suit.